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THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST--23 FEBRUARY 1963

1. CUBA:

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HIGH-ALTITUDE

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PHOTOGRAPHY OF THE PORT AREA BEFORE THE SHIP'S SAILING WAS NOT CLEAR ENOUGH TO DISTINGUISH THE NATURE OF DOCKSIDE ACTIVITY. PHOTOGRAPHY THROUGH LAST WEDNESDAY DOES NOT SHOW ANY EVIDENCE THAT SOVIET MILITARY PERSONNEL WERE LEAVING OR PREPARING TO LEAVE THEIR INSTALLATIONS.

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D. THE COAST GUARD IS CHECKING OUT A REPORT THAT ANOTHER US-OWNED FISHING VESSEL, THE ALACRAN, WAS BUZZED BY A JET IN WATERS BETWEEN THE WESTERN TIP OF CUBA AND THE YUCATAN PENINSULA ON WEDNESDAY OR THURSDAY OF LAST WEEK.

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3. PANAMA:

A. PRESIDENT CHIARI SAYS HE WILL SOON DISPATCH A "VIGOROUS PLEA" TO PRESIDENT KENNEDY FOR A BIGGER FINANCIAL RETURN FROM

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THE OPERATION OF THE CANAL. CHIARI HOPES TO RECEIVE AN ANSWER AT THE SAN JOSE PRESIDENTS' MEETING.

B. CHIARI ALSO INDICATES THAT HE WILL URGE THE PRESIDENTS TO ADOPT SEVERAL SPECIFIC MEASURES TO DEAL WITH THE CUBAN PROBLEM

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4. DOMINICAN REPUBLIC:

A. [REDACTED] BOSCH [REDACTED] THE PRESIDENT-ELECT NOW SEES THE NEED FOR STEPS TO PLACATE BUSINESS, PROFESSIONAL AND MILITARY ELEMENTS WHOSE ANGER HAS BEEN RISING OVER HIS ESPOUSAL OF THE RADICAL DRAFT CONSTITUTION.

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B. BOSCH PLANS TO ANNOUNCE [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] THAT THE PRESENT CONSTITUTION WILL REMAIN IN FORCE UNTIL A SATISFACTORY REPLACEMENT CAN BE PRODUCED.

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C. [REDACTED]

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5. VENEZUELA:

A. COMMUNIST LEADERS HAVE RECONSIDERED PLANS TO ATTEMPT ANOTHER OUTBURST OF SABOTAGE AND VIOLENCE, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] TO COINCIDE WITH PRESIDENT BETANCOURT'S RETURN.

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B. FEAR THAT THEY AND THEIR FAR-LEFT ALLIES WILL BE OUT-LAWED UNLESS THEY EASE OFF LAY BEHIND THE DECISION.

C. TENSION IN CARACAS HAS [REDACTED] DIMINISHED CONSIDERABLY. THE PUBLIC'S ATTENTION HAS SHIFTED TO BETANCOURT'S US TRIP, WHICH IS WIDELY VIEWED AS A SIGNAL SUCCESS.

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6. CUBAN INSURGENCY:

A. CUBAN SECURITY FORCES ARE USING ARMOR AND HELICOPTERS AGAINST INSURGENTS ACTIVE IN LAS VILLAS AND CAMAGUEY PROVINCES

B. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] GOVERNMENT FORCES ARE MEETING FAIRLY SUBSTANTIAL RESISTANCE.

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7. NOTES:

A. PAKISTAN - COMMUNIST CHINA: THE PAKISTANI FOREIGN MINISTER HAS ANNOUNCED ABRUPTLY THAT HE WILL LEAVE FOR PEIPING TOMORROW TO SIGN A BORDER AGREEMENT WITH THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS. THE ACTION CASTS A SHADOW OVER THE KASHMIR DISCUSSIONS SCHEDULED TO RESUME IN CALCUTTA ON 12 MARCH.

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C. BERLIN: A SOVIET BUS CONVOY BOUND FOR THE SOVIET WAR MEMORIAL IN THE BRITISH SECTOR WAS TURNED BACK BY US MP'S THIS MORNING WHEN IT TRIED TO CROSS OVER AT CHECKPOINT CHARLIE. THE CONVOY EVENTUALLY REACHED ITS DESTINATION BY WAY OF THE SANDKRUG BRIDGE CROSSING WHICH THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN OBLIGED TO USE SINCE LATE LAST SUMMER.

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TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET